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Country cooperation framework and related matters

Extension of the first country cooperation framework for Belize

Period of extension:
1 January 2001 to 31 December 2001

I. Background and justification

1. The first country cooperation framework (CCF) for Belize was approved by the Executive Board in January 1997. The two areas of priority outlined in the CCF are environment and natural resource conservation, and community development. Even though the common country assessment (CCA) United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) exercise is not required for Belize, UNDP and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) have taken an initiative to incorporate a CCA within the framework of the 1999 national human development report (NHDR). Agreement has been reached with UNICEF to harmonize cycles with UNDP beginning in 2002.

II. Objectives

A. Community development and grass-roots participation

2. The Support to Sustainable Human Development project has inculcated leadership-training skills in the six districts of Belize, with a total participation of 1,309 community leaders, of which 32 per cent were women. Training modules in accordance with the district's particular needs were formulated in basic areas. In addition, the project was able to support the design of community projects, the drafting of the Village Council Bill, and the establishment of district associations. During the extension period, the aim is to promote consensus building between the State, civil-society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector, as well as to foster the adoption of a human development agenda and of policies related to senior

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citizens, gender and HIV/AIDS, and to support the National Human Development Advisory Committee. The formulation of the NHDR will also continue.

B. Environment and natural resources

3. The main results have been the formulation of a national biodiversity strategy and action plan, Belize's first communication on climate change, the establishment of a Coastal Zone Management Authority and Institute, and the establishment of community co-management structures for Belize's protected areas (42 per cent of national territory). Moreover, UNDP will consolidate its support towards its disaster preparedness programme at the community level throughout Belize. A very good working relationship has been established with the National Emergency Management Organization and the Belize Red Cross. The expected results for the extension period include establishing new institutional mechanisms relating to biodiversity and climate change, enhancing the methodology for community co-management of protected areas, and providing support to communities through the Small Grants Programme and the Turner Fund COMPACT Project. The Mesoamerican Biological Corridor has been initiated at the national level.

4. The Administrator wishes to inform the Executive Board that he has approved the extension of the first country cooperation framework for a period of one year, beginning on 1 January.